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## Memorandum

To: Local Health Departments  
Vaccine Distributors

From: Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager  
Marie O'Donnell, Immunization Program Manager

Date: April 2007

Subject: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccine Management  
Business Improvement Project (VMBIP)

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This letter is being sent to you in advance of the Immunization Update workshops scheduled for this spring. At these workshops, CDC's Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP) will be discussed with providers during the Vaccine Management presentation. We want to inform you in case you receive questions from providers.

The Vaccine Management Business Improvement Project (VMBIP) represents the efforts of CDC to improve current vaccine management processes and accountability. The goals are to:

1. Simplify processes for the ordering, distribution, and management of vaccines in order to be able to respond more quickly and effectively to public health crises related to disease outbreaks, vaccine shortages, and disruption of the vaccine supply.
2. Implement a more efficient vaccine supply system that will result in the redirection of vital public health resources away from vaccine distribution and towards public health activities that will improve immunization coverage levels.
3. Enable the direct delivery of vaccine to providers.

CDC has established a contract with a national distributor, McKesson, to ship all publicly funded vaccine directly to providers. This project is currently being piloted in Maryland, Washington, and the city of Chicago. Other states will begin to transition to this new system beginning in April. Massachusetts will be one of the last states to transition to VMBIP, with a currently scheduled date of March 2008. At that time, state supplied vaccine will no longer be distributed by the MDPH Regional Health Offices or our local vaccine distributors.

When centralized vaccine distribution begins, all vaccine orders will be processed by the MDPH Vaccine Management Unit. Providers will either fax orders, or use a web based application to electronically send orders to MDPH. There are two systems currently under development which may be used for vaccine ordering- the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) and CDC's Vaccine Ordering and Distribution System (VODS). Vaccine orders will be processed by MDPH and then forwarded to the CDC for further approval. McKesson will utilize FedEx and United Parcel Service (UPS) to deliver the vaccines to provider sites. Merck will continue to ship varicella and MMRV vaccines directly to provider sites. Doses administered data and temperature logs will be required with all vaccine orders.

There will not be any cost to providers associated with shipping of state-purchased vaccine. (MDPH will continue to purchase and distribute as many vaccines as federal and state funding allow.)

There are a number of unresolved issues, including the current infrastructure of MDPH Regional Health Offices. In addition, it has not been determined if McKesson will distribute state-purchased influenza vaccine or if we will need to maintain the current distribution system. As VMBIP is rolled out in other states, there may be more issues identified that will need to be addressed. MDPH will continue to work closely with local Boards of Health, vaccine distributors, and providers over the next several months to address issues related to the transition and will provide regular updates throughout the process.